



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



## 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

Bonn, 28-29 September 2006

CMS/StC31/13  
Agenda Item 8.b

### PRIORITIES FOR UNEP/CMS 2006-2008

#### Issue

1. Establishing priorities so that the Secretariat can deploy scarce manpower and cash resources flexibly and effectively, consistent with the CMS Strategic Plan and Budget agreed at CoP8 in November 2005.

#### Background

2. Parties decided at CoP8 that translating all the targeted activities set out in the Strategic plan – and thus meeting CMS' contribution to the 2010 biodiversity targets - would depend on raising additional earmarked resources from donors and partners in the governmental, private and NGO sectors.

3. This means that the Plan is more of a “menu” than a “manual” and entails risks that activities which are popular with individual donors or partners, will supersede non-funded aspects of the Plan, including those activities which are of equal or greater importance to migratory species conservation.

#### Executive Secretary's Advice

4. Fundraising for specific activities has progressed well since November 2005 (fundraising and budget papers refer – CMS/StC31/5 and CMS/StC31/6).

5. The main constraint in attaining all the Strategic Plan objectives is increasingly likely to be a shortage of skilled Secretariat manpower. To some extent this can be remedied by appointing time-limited project staff for funded activities, and by ensuring that when contracts of existing professional and GS staff reach their time-limit, they are renewed only if officers offering substantially higher and broader skills, productivity and fundraising abilities are unlikely to be available through open recruitment - a principle which is enshrined in the concept of the normal UNEP contract period of two years.

6. Project priorities should be selected on the basis of these criteria:

- (a) ensuring better geographical balance in CMS activities, especially for new regional agreements;

- (b) ensuring key migratory species are given special attention, with top priority given to endangered keystone or flagship species (whose conservation can have spin-offs for other species and the wider environment); species for which no other MEAs are relevant or active; species at particular risk from the effects of climate change; and species whose sustainable management offers key advantages in promoting development in poorer countries;
- (c) potential of project to raise public and government consciousness about the importance of conserving migratory species;
- (d) potential of project to contribute to the WSSD/CBD biodiversity targets for 2010 and the MDGs;
- (e) making available improved scientific information about migratory species;
- (f) providing benefits in the first instance for Parties as opposed to non-Parties; and
- (g) the availability of funds.

**Action requested:**

The Committee is asked to consider, and if desired, amend or endorse these criteria.